

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 ACDA-05 SCA-01

MC-02 SAJ-01 ERDA-05 SAM-01 AID-05 DPW-01 OIC-02 IO-10

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 /096 R

DRAFTED BY L/UNA:MJMATHESON:EB

APPROVED BY L:GHALDRICH

DOD - MAJ. NAFTZINGER

PM - MR. PHELPS

ACDA - COL. STAPLES

EUR/SOV - MR. ZOOK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 300037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM

SUBJECT: LAWS OF WAR - CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

1. AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS WILL HOST A SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AT LUGANO FROM JANUARY 28 TO FEBRUARY 26. THE RESULTS OF THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE THIRD SESSION OF THE LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN APRIL-JUNE 1976.

2. FYI: THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS WAS HELD IN LUCERNE IN 1974. SEVERAL SOVIET EXPERTS WERE PRESENT AT LUCERNE (INCLUDING USPENSKI AND KRASNOPEEV OF
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THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND BLISHCHENKO OF THE INSTITUTE

OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS), BUT DID NOT TAKE AS ACTIVE A PART IN THE PROCEEDINGS AS DID WESTERN DELS. THE SOVIETS ARE OBVIOUSLY QUITE WARY ABOUT THE ENTIRE EXERCISE, AND WOULD PREFER THAT ANY RESTRICTIONS ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS BE CONSIDERED IN THE CCD, RATHER THAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE. END FYI.

3. IN OUR VIEW IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET BLOC ON WEAPONS ISSUES REMAIN AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE

TO THAT OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES. TO THAT END, WE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT BILATERALLY WITH SOVIET EXPERTS AT AN EARLY POINT IN THE LUGANO SESSION TO DISCUSS WEAPONS ISSUES AND ATTEMPT CLOSER COORDINATION OF SOVIET AND WESTERN POSITIONS. SUGGEST EMBASSY APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CONVEY OUR INTEREST IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AT LUGANO DURING JANUARY 28-30 PERIOD. DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISER GEORGE ALDRICH IS EXPECTED TO LEAD USDEL, WHICH WILL ALSO INCLUDE APPROPRIATE MILITARY AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN ON NATURE OF SOVIET DEL. KISSINGER

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